

Burbank-Hatheway House  
Main Street  
Suffield, Hartford County  
Connecticut

HABS No. CONN-240

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
120 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BURBANK-HATHEWAY HOUSE

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Location: Main Street, Suffield, Hartford County, Connecticut.

Present Owner: Estate of Sumner Fuller.

Brief Statement of Significance: *Present owner: Antiquarian & Landmarks Society of Ct.*  
This house is interesting because various sections of it were built in three periods: probably late 17th century, middle 18th century, and late 18th century. It contains some well-preserved decorative woodwork.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: South part of home lot originally owned by John Lawton, on which stood an old house built c. 1683 by John Lawton. The North part (no house) was bought by Abraham Burbank in 1735, and the present house was probably built there. Burbank later owned both parts. The later subsequent owners were: Shem Burbank, Oliver Phelps, Asahel Hatheway, Danl Carrington and Sumner Fuller. (Information taken from Northampton and Suffield Town Records).
2. Date of erection: 1735-1742. South ell possibly part of older Lawton House. North ell and probably first story of the West ell built by Phelps c. 1796. Second story of West ell built by Fuller.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers etc.:  
Builder - Joseph Howard and Eliphalet King for Phelps.  
Suppliers - John McMorran, Eli Jan and Martin Sheldon for Phelps.  
Architect - Asher Benjamin for Phelps.  
(Above from Account Books of McMorran, Sheldon and Howard in Suffield).  
On back of plinth of one of the pilasters of the fireplace in North ell was written "Th<sup>o</sup> Hayden This raises the Windsor 1795"  
question as to whether he was not the one responsible for the decorative woodwork of that ell. The Hayden name is common in Windsor where the old Hayden Tavern stood.
4. Original plans, construction etc.: Main House is large gambrel roofed-central chimney type of usual plan. North ell, built by Phelps, is gambrel to match house. West ell was probably peak roof, and when second story was added, it was made gambrel to conform. South ell is small gambrel.

5. Notes on alterations and additions: The South ell may possibly be part of old Lawton building. Its exterior wall is very thick, and there may be sheathing under later paneling. The North ell is known to have been built by Oliver Phelps, who probably also built the first story of the West ell.
  6. Important old views: One or two daguerrotypes in Kent Menil Library show house about as it is now.
- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: There are none--With the exception that much of the planning, of that part of Western Reserve and of New York State purchased by Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham, was probably done in this house. Nothing is known about the building of the main part of the house, except as found in deeds and wills.
- C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: In Albany are many papers of Oliver Phelps which might contain references to this house.

Prepared by Mrs. Henry M. Clark  
June 4, 1958

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: This house was built in sections at different periods, ranging possibly from late 17th century to late 18th century. The present south ell appears to have been the original structure, with north and west ells added later.
2. Condition of Fabric: Excellent.

### B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: One-and-a-half stories in South ell. Two-and-a-half stories in Main house. Two-and-a-half stories in North and West ells.
2. Foundations: Stone in Main house and North and West ells. Brick in South ell.
3. Wall construction: Wood frame construction throughout.
4. Chimneys: Main house--central, brick; North ell--end, brick; South ell--end, brick.

5. Openings

- a. Doorways and doors: Main house has double front door--late 18th century. North ell has single front door--late 18th century. Door from South ell--early 18th century.
- b. Windows and shutters: Windows in Main house and North ell all alike--6 over 6, 10 x 12 panes.

6. Roof

- a. Shape, covering: All roofs gambrel. All roofs covered with slate, except small part of North ell which has asphalt.
- b. Cornice, eaves: A mutule cornice on Main house and North ell.
- c. Dormers: None.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

- 1. Floor Plans: West ell contains present dining room, kitchen and pantry.  
Main house is ordinary central chimney plan--two stories and attic.  
South ell consists of only one room with end chimney and has a loft above it.  
North ell has hall and stairway next to Main house and two rooms on both floors--all with fireplaces. In third floor are several rooms and bath.
- 2. Stairways: Doglog in Main house; straight staircase in North ell; West ell has an old staircase from an early house.
- 3. Flooring: Laid pine in Main house and South ell. New floor in West ell.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.
- 5. Doorways and doors: Main door is double, early 19th century--flush panel on exterior, with lights. Has pedimented porch with Doric columns. The North ell has doorway with Ionic pilasters.
- 6. Trim: Window heads have entablatures with dentils and convex frieze.

7. Hardware: HL hinges and boxlocks with brass knobs in Main house.
8. Lighting: Electricity.
9. Heating: Oil heat.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: House faces east on Main Street of Suffield. It is set beneath fine old trees with extensive grounds on either side and in rear; wide trees meet between house and street.
2. Enclosures: Fence in front--said to have been designed by Asher Benjamin.
3. Outbuildings: Large barns on North; old carriage house (now garage) on North between barns and house; old well or garden house on South.
4. Landscaping, gardens etc.: Simple landscaping, with old shrubs and trees, and planted with peonies.

Prepared by Mrs. Henry M. Clark  
June 11, 1958

*Charles H. Loring*  
*December 22, 1959*  
*Acting Chief Architect.*